

811 Regulations: color codes for marking buried facilities

WVSC §24C-1-6 Standard color code for temporary markings has the some of the color codes incorrect from today’s standards, and does not conform with many operators current practices. It also differs from ANSI Z535.1 Safety Colors as well as the Common Ground Alliance recommendations.

The APWA Uniform color code was adopted from the ANSI Z535.1 standard (reaffirmed in 2011). The ANSI standard is to establish a standard for safety colors.

For comparison purposes:

WVSC §24C-1-6	Utility Type	ANSI Z535.1	Utility Type
White	Proposed excavation	White	Proposed excavation
Safety Red	Electrical power distribution & transmission, municipal electrical systems	Red	Electric Power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
High Visibility Safety Yellow	Gas distribution & transmission, oil and petroleum transmission, dangerous materials, product lines, steam lines	Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous materials
Safety Alert Orange	Telephone and telegraph systems, police and fire communications, cable television	Orange	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit
Safety Precaution Blue	Water systems	Blue	Potable water
Safety Precaution Blue	Slurry systems	Purple	Reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines
Safety Green	Sewer Systems	Green	Sewers and drain lines
		Pink	Temporary Survey markings
Differences in color markings			
Differences in descriptions of utility type			

The current WV regulations are too specific in regards to the color, and types of utilities. As noted, the Z535.1 practice is less specific on color as well as the descriptions of the utilities.